THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is true that management of forest should be in consonance with the National Forest Policy. Criteria and Indicators provide a nationalised frame work for monitoring management practice towards Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Government of India on November 9, 1999 constituted a National Task Force on SFM, which has recently submitted its report. Other steps taken by the Government to conserve eco-system are as under:

1. A network of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.
3. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.
4. Afforestation activities are being undertaken.
5. Steps have been taken to preserve biodiversity.

Guidelines to States on forestry programmes

3441. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on forestry programmes are not properly followed by State Governments;

(b) whether several State Governments are still gropping with the old guidlines on forestry programmes, due to which protection of forests has been affected; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to ensure that State Governments follow guidelines issued by the Union Government from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India issues guidelines to State Governments on various issues, from time to time for effective protection and development

of forests. These guidelines are acted upon by the States as per the provisions of the constitution. As per the provisions of National Forest Policy 1988, Government of India had issued guidelines to the State Governments on June 1, 1990 for involving village communities in the protection and regeneration of degrated forest lands under Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme. As reported by various State Governments 22 States have issued Government resolutions in this regard and 10.249 million ha. of forest area in these States has been covered under JFM programme. Government of India has issued fresh guidelines on February 21, 2000 to further strengthen the JFM programme in the country. To ensure that State Governments follow guidelines issued by the Union Government, the matter is continuously monitored and discussed at various forums in meetings held with State Government representatives from time to time. Regional offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests also do the monitoring to ensure that the guidelines are followed in the States.

Priorities of National Forest Scheme

†3442. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had formulated a new National Forest Scheme in 1998;

(b) if so, the details of priorities fixed therein;

(c) whether any scheme has since been formulated for programme implementation under the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Rights of Tribal People on Forest Land

†3443. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest amendment made in the Forest

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.